Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 029401
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-02 IO-13 L-03 H-02 DHA-02
SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02
USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /090 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P:BARUSSELL:MR
APPROVED BY AF/P:RADUMAS
----------100538Z 115335 /12
R 092005Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS STATE 029401

LONDON FOR MR. SEITZ, PARIS FOR MR. MALONE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, FEBRUARY 8

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, FRED BROWN'S FEBRUARY 8 PRESS BRIEFING:

Q: HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT OR AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAD ANY COMMENT ON THE MURDER OF THREE JESUIT PRIESTS AND FOUR NUNS ON SATURDAY NIGHT?

A: REGARDING THE DEATHS OF THE CIVILIANS THAT YOU REFER TO, THE CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND NUNS IN RHODESIA, THE UNITED STATES CONDEMNS THESE MURDERS. THE UNITED STATES CONDEMNS THE MURDER OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS WHEREVER AND WHENEVER IT OCCURS. THESE INEXCUSABLE KILLINGS IN RHODESIA FORCEFULLY
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 029401

ILLUSTRATE THE NECESSITY FOR ALL PARTIES TO CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE RHODESIA PROBLEM.

Q: TO FOLLOW THAT UP, HAS AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID ANYTHING SINCE, OF COURSE, HE IS CLOSEST TO THIS?

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

A: I HAVE NOT SEEN ANY REPORTING EITHER IN THE MEDIA OR OFFICIAL TRAFFIC WITH REGARD TO HIS REMARKS ON THIS.

Q: YOU DON'T EXPECT THAT HE WILL?

A: I HAVE NO EXPECTATION. I AM JUST SAYING I HAVE NOT SEEN ANYTHING AS YET, BUT I HAVE GIVEN YOU THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENT ON THIS EVENT.

Q: THE SECRETARY HAS NOW SEEN AMBASSADOR RICHARD TWICE, I UNDERSTAND, IN TWO DAYS. IS AN EFFORT BEING MADE NOW EITHER TO RE-INVOLVE THE UNITED STATES IN A MUCH MORE DIRECT WAY IN THE NEGOTIATION, OR IS THERE A NEW COMPRO-MISE ANGL0-AMERICAN PLAN THAT IS BEING FORMULATED?

A: IN VIEW OF THE SECRETARY'S TALKS TODAY AND OUR OTHER TALKS THAT HAVE BEEN GOING ON, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S TRIP TO AFRICA, I AM NOT GOING TO SPECULATE ON WHAT DIRECTION U.S. POLICY WITH REGARD TO RHODESIA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA MIGHT TAKE.

Q: WELL NOW, YOU HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO SAY IN THE PAST, IN THE LAST WEEK OR SO, THAT THE UNITED STATES, IN EFFECT, IS ALLOWING BRITAIN TO TAKE THE LEAD; IT IS THE BRITISH PROPOSAL THAT IS UP FRONT.

A: YES. THAT REMAINS THE CASE. IN OTHER WORDS, I AM NOT GOING TO GO FURTHER OR ADD TO WHAT I HAVE SAID SEVERAL TIMES ABOUT THE CENTRAL LEADING ROLE OF THE BRITISH IN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 029401

THIS MATTER.

Q: YOU STILL SUPPORT THE BRITISH PLAN?

A: YES.

Q: AND YET PRESIDENT KAUNDA, AT LEAST, THE OTHER DAY SAID THAT BRITAIN HAS NEITHER THE WILL NOR THE STRENGTH NOR THE CAPABILITY TO DO IT AND IT DEPENDS ON THE UNITED STATES. DOES THAT CAUSE THE DEPARTMENT TO REASSESS WHETHER THE UNITED STATES SHOULDN'T ONCE AGAIN ASSUME THE LEADING ROLE?

A: IT CAUSES US ONLY TO SAY THAT WE SUPPORT THE BRITISH EFFORTS IN THIS MATTER.

Q: THE BRITISH HAVE FALLEN FLAT ON THEIR FACE.

A: THAT IS YOUR DESCRIPTION OF IT. I WOULD NOT ACCEPT

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

THAT. WE ARE CONTINUING TO SUPPORT THEIR PLAN AND THEIR EFFORTS, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

Q: BUT, YOU CAN'T REALLY TELL US THAT THE U.S. IS NOW THINKING ABOUT RE-INVOLVING ITSELF MORE DEEPLY?

A: I CANNOT BECAUSE, AS I JUST SAID, WE HAVE CONSULTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS AND EXPLORATIONS WHICH ARE IN PROGRESS AND, AS I MENTIONED A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO WHEN WE STARTED OUT DISCUSSING THE TRIP OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG, HE IS GOING TO COME BACK AND REPORT HIS FINDINGS TO THE SECRETARY AND TO THE PRESIDENT, AND WE ARE GOING TO LOOK AT WHAT IS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER. I REALLY CANNOT GIVE YOU ANY KIND OF GUESS AS TO WHAT DIRECTIONS MIGHT BE TAKEN.

Q: WHAT THEN IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CURRENTINTENSIVE ROUND OF TALKS, BECAUSE ALL OF THE WORDS THAT YOU JUST USED YOU UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 029401

USED BEFORE THIS ROUND OF TALKS BEGAN?

A: WE ARE LOOKING AT THE PROBLEM. OBVIOUSLY, A GREAT DEAL OF PROGRESS REMAINS TO BE ACHIEVED BEFORE YOU CAN HAVE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN RHODESIA, NOT TO MENTION THE REST OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. SO, IT SEEMS TO ME SELF-EVIDENT THAT WE WANT TO CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSIONS ON THIS AND TRY TO MOVE THE MATTER AHEAD. THE RHODESIA PROBLEM HAS NOT BEEN SOLVED AND WE ARE DOING WHAT WE CAN TO HELP SOLVE IT.

Q: APROPOS OF THAT, THE ONE SURVIVING PRIEST, WHO HAS BEEN THERE A LONG TIME, IDENTIFIED THE MURDERERS AS NATIONALIST TERRORISTS. NOW, I AM JUST WONDERING SINCE THE PARTICI-PANTS IN THIS VARIED DISCUSSION INCLUDE THOSE WHO MAINTAIN TERRORISTS, HOW CAN IT BE REASONABLY EXPECTED THAT THEY WILL WANT TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE PEOPLE, YOU KNOW, WHO ARE CONNECTED WITH THIS MASSACRE? SINCE WE DON'T NEGOTIATE WITH THE PLO, HOW CAN WE REASONABLY EXPECT MR. SMITH'S GOVERNMENT TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE PEOPLE THAT MURDERED ALL THESE CLERGY?

A: I WILL STICK WITH WHAT I HAVE SAID IN CONDEMNING THIS VILE ACT AND NOT ADD TO IT IN ANY WAY.

Q: WOULD THIS ALSO INCLUDE LAST MONTH'S MURDER OF THE RETIRED CATHOLIC BISHOP OF BULAWAYO AND ONE NUN AND ONE PRIEST? I MEAN THIS IS A GENERAL QUESTION.

A: IT WOULD INCLUDE ASSASSINATIONS AND VIOLENT CRIMES OF THIS SORT WHEREVER THEY OCCUR, INCLUDING THE ONES THAT YOU ARE ALLUDING TO.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Q : YES. YOU ALSO SPOKE OUT ON THIS LAST MONTH WHEN THIS HAPPENED?

A: I DO NOT RECALL WHETHER YOU ASKED ME LAST MONTH ON THAT,
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 029401

BUT IF WE HAD BEEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON AN ASSASSINATION OF THIS SORT, WE WOULD HAVE RESPONDED IN THOSE DIRECT TERMS.

VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MURDER, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, MISSIONARIES, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE029401
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BARUSSELL:MR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770047-0584
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770257/aaaabyms.tel
Line Count: 185
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b4c918c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3361802
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, FEBRUARY 8 FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, FRED BROWN\'S FEBRUARY 8 PRESS BRIEFING
TAGS: PFOR
To: AF POSTS LONDON MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b4c918c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009